

**GARDEN  
MAINTENANCE  
GUIDE**

  
**HIGH GROVE**  
AT BOX HILL





## WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HIGH GROVE GARDEN

A front garden can provide screening and privacy as well as enhance the look of your home's exterior.

Plants will look healthier and have a longer life span, while your green lawn is a space for the kids to play, if they are both properly maintained.

By following a few basic steps, you'll have a garden and lawn which will be the envy of the street, all year round.



## FRONT HEDGES

Front hedges are designed to establish a physical boundary line between Council land and your property, while creating some privacy for you and your family. Hedges allow your home and garden to work together, accentuating the lines of your home and adding contrast/ greenery to help soften hard surfaces such as concrete paths and driveways. The suggested height of your hedges is between 600 and 1000mm.

## SIDE HEDGES

Side hedges are designed to provide a dividing border between yourself and the neighbour's property. Tall growing species should stand at 1.5 to 2m tall, while lower growing species should be 600 to 1000mm tall.

<p>WATERING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preferably hedges need to be watered by hand, ensuring the water goes into the soil at least 50mm. In summer, water at least twice a week and in winter, water once a week.</li> <li>▪ Once your hedges have reached their full height, watering will change to whenever your hedges look like they need water.</li> </ul>
<p>PRUNING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In order for your plants to become thick strong hedges you must prune them regularly.</li> <li>▪ Prune a minimum of two to three times a year, in the warmer months from September to April. Wait until there is about 10mm of new growth before you prune again.</li> <li>▪ Aim to prune off most of the new growth. I know this may seem strange but it actually is very necessary in establishing the hedges.</li> <li>▪ You will need to prune the tops and the sides as well. This is most important as pruning will enable the hedge to thicken and will stimulate new growth which in turn will make the hedge more able to withstand disease and insect attacks.</li> </ul>
<p>FERTILISING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fertilise your hedges a minimum of twice a year at the same time as pruning.</li> <li>▪ To do this, use a complete fertiliser. You can use a liquid fertiliser and ensure that a balanced fertiliser suitable for general trees and shrubs is used. Alternatively, you can use a soluble tablet fertiliser that is a slow release. Some can continually fertilise the plants for 6 to 10 months.</li> </ul>
<p>INSECTS &amp; DISEASES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Generally if you continue with the fertilising and pruning programme you should be relatively free of these problems.</li> <li>▪ If you notice any insect problems take a sample to your local nursery for advice.</li> </ul>



# TREES

Your front yard trees are designed to provide seasonal flower colour or nice autumn leaves.

These trees lose their leaves in winter, which allows more natural light to enter the home in the cooler months.

<b>WATERING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You should water the trees once a week by hand in summer until they are established.</li><li>▪ Water once a fortnight to once a month in winter (depending on rain) until they are established.</li></ul>
<b>FERTILISING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Use pelleted slow release fertiliser and sprinkle around the root zone.</li></ul>

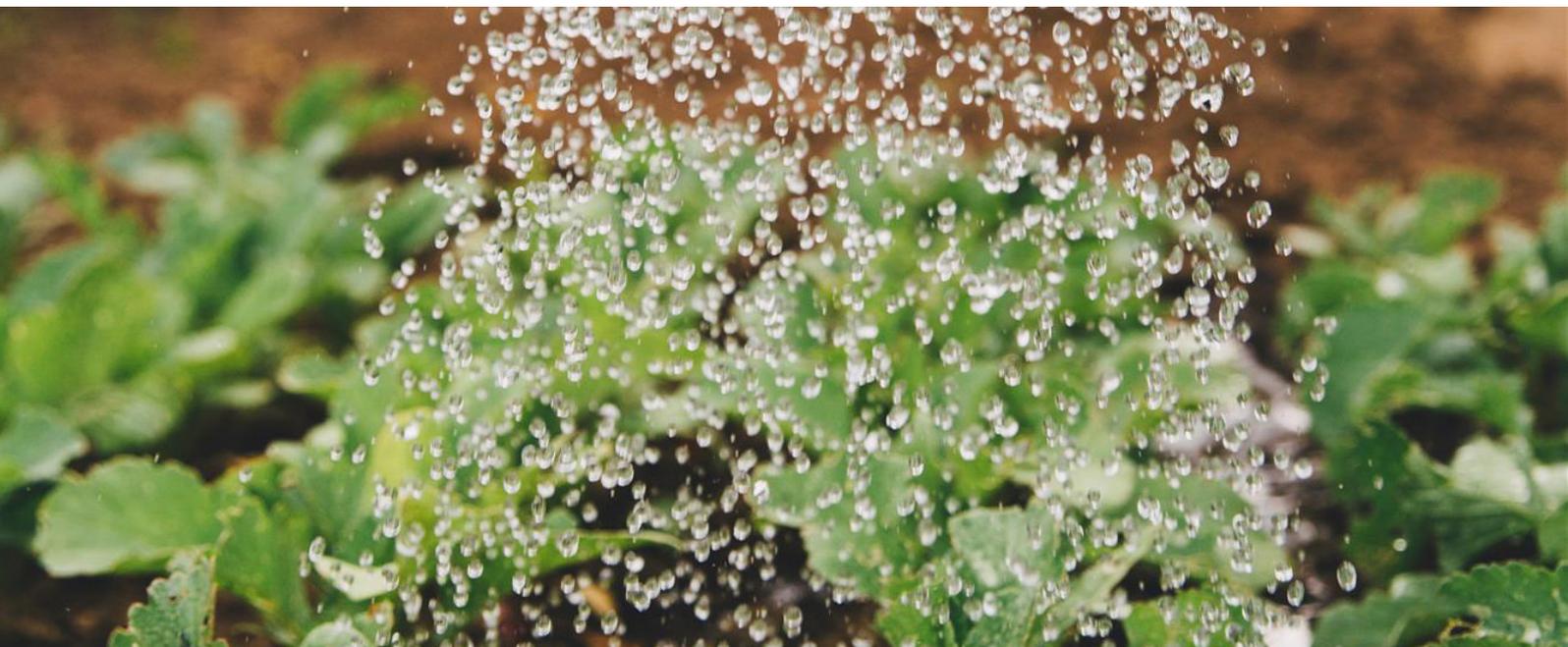




# GENERAL GARDEN PLANTS

These smaller plants in your front yard, are usually located in front of the windows or in front of your side hedges. They are used to add scale and dimension to the garden as well as seasonal colour with their foliage or flowers.

<b>WATERING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Preferably plants need to be watered by hand, ensuring the water goes into the soil at least 50mm. In summer, water at least twice a week and in winter, water once a week.</li></ul>
<b>PRUNING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ New growth tips are to be pruned twice a year to promote strong new growth.</li></ul>
<b>FERTILISING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Fertilise your plants a minimum of twice a year at the same time as pruning.</li><li>▪ To do this, use a complete fertiliser. You can use a liquid fertiliser and ensure that a balanced fertiliser suitable for general trees and shrubs is used. Alternatively, you can use a soluble tablet fertiliser that is a slow release. Some can continually fertilise the plants for 6 to 10 months.</li></ul>
<b>INSECTS &amp; DISEASES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Generally if you continue with the fertilising and pruning programme you should be relatively free of these problems.</li><li>▪ If you notice any insect problems take a sample to your local nursery for advice.</li></ul>





# LAWNS

Lawns are used to define the spaces between house and garden. They soften the hardscapes such as driveways, paths and brickwork while providing a place for the kids to play on.

WATERING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ You should water lawns a minimum of twice a week in summer when just laid and continue to do this for one month. You can then reduce to weekly and continue that through the summer months until properly established.</li><li>▪ Water lawns a minimum of once a week in winter months for the first 3 to 4 weeks. Then you can reduce watering to an as needs basis.</li></ul>
FERTILISING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Fertilise your lawn twice a year in the warm months (October to March) with a complete dry fertiliser as per the manufacturer's directions. Ensure you water the grass straight after fertilising and you should see results of this approximately 10 to 14 days after.</li><li>▪ You can also fertilise in between dry applications with a liquid fertiliser. These can be applied with a clip on bottle to the garden hose. You could apply this once or twice throughout the warm months. Most major brands available will have a well balanced fertiliser suitable for your Buffalo Lawn.</li></ul>
MOWING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Mowing weekly in the summer months will promote a thick, healthy lawn and fortnightly or monthly as required in the winter months.</li></ul>

## LAWN MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Ensure you have sharp mower blades.
- Ensure to use a catcher where possible.
- Top dress lawn every 1 to 2 years only in the peak of summer when the lawn is growing strongly. Also best to do this in your lawns second season of growth after it is well established. This will make a strong difference to how healthy and firm your lawn is and helps smooth out any small and uneven surfaces.

